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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service
Food and Drug Administration

Refer to: CFN 1120095

Baltimore District
900 Madison Avenue
Baltimore, Maryland 21201
Telephone: (410) 962-4012

March 5, 1997

WARNING LETTER

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Mr. William Ewing, Executive Director
Maryland Food Bank
241 N. Franklintown Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21223

Dear Mr. Ewing:

During an inspection of your food storage warehouse conducted by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on February 5-7, 1997, extensive rodent (mice) and bird activity and related insanitary conditions were observed throughout the facility. Specifically:

1. Four live mice were observed in food storage areas.

2. A live bird and bird droppings were observed in Room C.

3. Three dead mice were observed in the warehouse.

4. Evidence of rodent gnawing was observed on four lots of food intended for human consumption.

5. Rodent excreta pellets were observed throughout the food storage area.

6. Several structural defects were found in the facility that provide possible entryways and harborage for rodents.

7. Food spillage was noted in at least three areas in the facility.

Preparing, packing, or holding food under insanitary conditions renders the food adulterated under Section 402(a)(4) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (the Act), in that the food may become contaminated with filth. Food held under such conditions is subject to seizure under the Act. Regulations regarding preparing, packing, and holding food are found in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 21, Part 110, and are enclosed for your reference.

The aforementioned violations are not intended to be an all-inclusive list of deficiencies at your facility. It is your responsibility to insure that your facility is operated in a sanitary manner.

At the conclusion of the inspection, the FDA investigator presented a listing of deficiencies (FDA-483) found during the inspection. You should take prompt action to correct these violations. Failure to do so may result in regulatory action without further notice, such as seizure and/or injunction.

You should notify this office in writing, within 15 working days of receipt of this letter, of the specific steps you have taken to correct the noted violations, including an explanation of each step being taken to prevent recurrence of similar violations.

Your reply should be sent to the Food and Drug Administration, 900 Madison Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21201, to the attention of Mr. Wiley T. Williamson, III, Compliance Officer.

Sincerely,

Douglas I. Ellsworth

Douglas I. Ellsworth
Acting Director, Baltimore District

Enclosure